
DIGEST

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Mills

HB No. 551

Abstract: Creates a public safety campaign to warn people about the risks of consuming Chinese seafood products. Requires retailers to warn customers about possible contamination of Chinese seafood products.

Present law creates a seafood inspection program under the Dept. of Agriculture and subject to the state Sanitary Code, as administered by the Dept. of Health and Hospitals.

Proposed law creates a separate public safety campaign to warn the public of the risks of consuming Chinese seafood even if it is deemed safe by the seafood inspection program.

Proposed law requires the state health officer to promulgate rules and regulations to ensure consumers are warned of potential health risks of Chinese seafood.

Proposed law requires the state health officer and the La. Restaurant Association to employ a marketing campaign that highlights the benefits of patronizing La. restaurants and eating local seafood.

Proposed law requires retailers and any other person that sells Chinese seafood to label the product with the following: "This product contains Chinese seafood and has passed all current governmental standards for its sale in the state of La.; however Chinese seafood products have been reported to contain substances which may be carcinogenic. The consumption of Chinese seafood may be hazardous to your health".

Proposed law requires retail seafood dealers to post the following sign: "Chinese seafood has been reported to contain substances which may be carcinogenic. The consumption of Chinese seafood may be hazardous to your health."

Proposed law requires signs to be in the English language, in legible type, and located in a conspicuous place.

Effective Jan. 1, 2010.

(Amends R.S. 40:4(A)(1)(b); Adds R.S. 40:5.5.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill.

1. Requires the state health officer and the La. Restaurant Association to implement a marketing campaign highlighting the benefits of patronizing La. restaurants and eating local seafood.
2. Deletes the requirement that all food service establishments post signs warning that Chinese seafood may contain carcinogenic substances and the consumption of Chinese seafood may be hazardous to people's health.